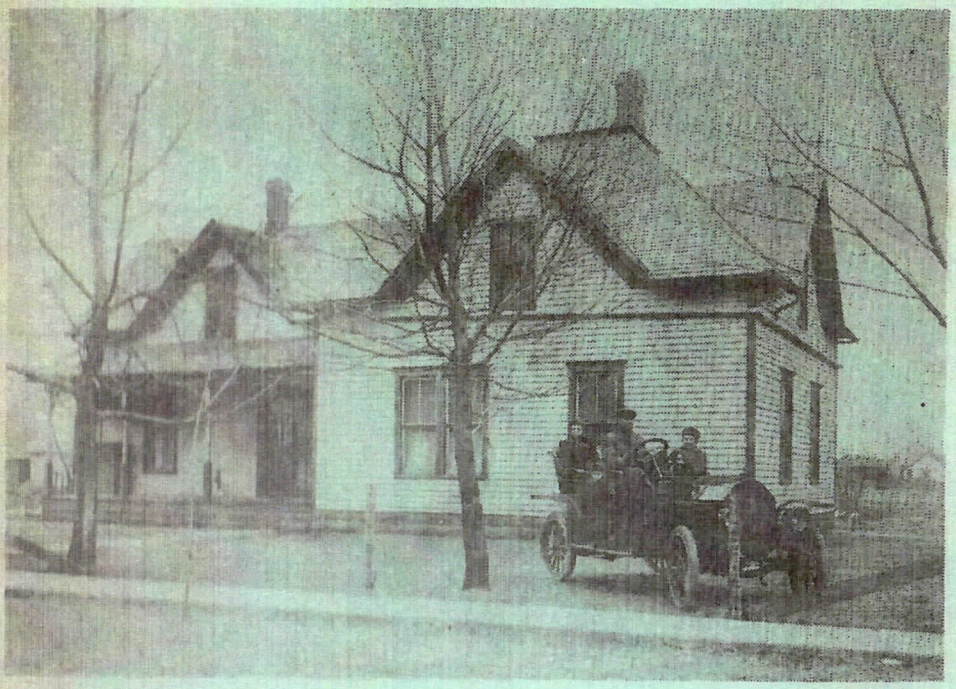
IN THE BEGINNING



Published Quarterly By
Woodson County Historical Society
Yates Center, Kansas
Vol. 8 - No. 29

IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 8 - No. 29 January - 1975

Lester A. Harding - Editor

Editor's Notes —

☐ If a red mark appears in this box you will know that your subscription has expired. We would appreciate it if our readers would respond immediately by sending a remittance to the Woodson County Historical Society, 411 N. State St., Yates Center, Kansas, 66783.

In The Beginning now goes to people in 25 states, including Hawaii. We have also sent a requested sample copy to a student in the History Dept. of the University of Torino, Italy.

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Our cover picture is of the Frank Harder family with an early day automobile. The Yates Center News of May 1, 1908 carries this item- "Frank Harder rides over the streets in a handsome, new red auto which he drove down from Paola this week. He went to Kansas City and shipped the machine to Paola where he was met by Roy Mertz and they drove it home from there."

The car was a two cylinder Maxwell. A right hand drive with a leather band to hold the hood down. The headlights burned carbide.

The picture was taken in the front yard of the Harder home at 410 W. Washington. Seated at the wheel is Frank Harder, Mrs. Harder in the rear seat. The largest boy on the back side is Carl Harder, holding onto his little brother Wilbur. The boy on the near fender is Herbert Harder.

One of the stories told about this auto was that Mr. Harder and a traveling man were in the car going out just to the east of Yates Center. The road was not what it is now and in some manner the car was overturned. That was in the early day of the auto and the people who owned them did not want the general public to know that things like that happened to them. And some way the auto was brought around town and parked in the large hay barn at the west edge of town. Roy Mertz and Jim Schnell straightened out the bend and broken places.

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WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Organized March, 1965

The regular dinner meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society, was held September 27, 1974 at the Hotel Woodson. There were 55 present for the dinner. The program was given by W. Kenneth Stockebrand. He showed colored slides and some movies of a fishing trip he and his son Gil took with several other area men and boys, to the north western part of Canada, in 1973. We had a very enjoyable evening.

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The Woodson County Historical Museum closed for the season on October 20. However it was opened up on October 29th for a tour by several ladies who were attending an area meeting of the Soil Conservation Service.

The Museum had a fairly successful season staying open five days a week from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. Two volunteers were at the Museum each of these days. In all we had 50 different people stay there with about 15 people doing the most of the work.

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Congratulations to our neighbors to the north-The Coffey County Historical Society, who opened their Museum with an open house Sunday, 27, 1974. The Museum is open each Wednesday from 2 to 4 p.m.

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This is the beginning of the Centennial Year for Yates Center. Plans have been made to make a successful year. The April issue of In The Beginning will probably be the Yates Center edition.

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The Woodson County Historical Society Centennial committee are sponsoring the sale of Yates Center Centennial Plates.

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On November 7, 1974, Robert Morton, Mayor of Yates Center, called a meeting at the City Hall for the purpose of organizing a central Yates Center Centennial Committee. Representatives from 20 different organizations were present. The committee elected were; President, Elmer F. Krueger; Vice President, Lester A. Harding; Secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Kimbell; Treasurer, Dean Randall.

Join and Support
Woodson County Historical Society
Life Membership $25.00 Regular Membership $2.00 a year

THE STEPHENSON FAMILY —

For many years the name of Stephenson was a very familiar and popular one in the business and political affairs of Yates Center and Woodson County.

Wm. P. Stephenson, was born on Staten Island, New York. As a boy he moved with his parents to Ohio, and later to Wisconsin, where he engaged in farming. And here he met and married Miss Clarissa C. Richards. Deciding to come on farther west, in 1869, Wm. P. Stephenson came to Linn County, Kansas with his family. Two years later, in April, 1871, the family came to Belmont township, Woodson County.

The following year, Mr. Stephenson was elected as county commissioner, the office he held for several years and was influential in getting the county seat moved to Yates Center.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. P. Stephenson were the parents of five children, Fred L. and his sister Lizzie are the only ones we will mention.

Fred Lincoln Stephenson, was born in Wyalusing, Wisconsin, April 16, 1869. He was just two years old when his parents and family arrived in Woodson County.

Fred L., secured his education in the public schools of the county, and assisted his father on the home farm until he reached young manhood. Then he came into Yates Center, and worked as a clerk in the General Store of Palmer and Trueblood. Later he served as Deputy Register of Deeds. And in 1892 he was elected to the office of Register Deeds for a term of four years.

Also about this time he became a partner with R. H. Trueblood, with the "Weekly News" of Yates Center. He kept an interest in the paper for around thirty years.

Fred L. Stephenson was married to Miss Mary Haun in 1891. She was the foster daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Lewis.

In 1900, Stephenson organized and was president of the Commercial State Bank. This bank started out with a capital of $8,000. Four years later the capital was $15,000. He was president of the bank until its merger with the State Exchange Bank in 1929. At that time Mr. Stephenson sacrificed all of his personal assets for the protection of the depositors of the Commercial State Bank and so saved Yates Center and vicinity great financial losses. The Commercial State Bank, like many banks of that year, was victim to the depression and money panic at that time.

F. L. Stephenson also served on the City Council, and school board. He was an influential member and worker in the Methodist Church and also a member of Gilead Lodge No. 144 of the Masonic Order, and was given a Life Membership in 1937.

Fred L. Stephenson and wife Mary Haun Stephenson

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Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson were the parents of one daughter, Clarissa C. Clarissa was born September 8, 1895, and lived her entire life in Woodson County, except the time that she attended Baker University at Baldwin and taught school in Washington D.C. She taught three years in the Yates Center schools.

On February 3, 1920, Clarrisa Stephenson and Stanley Cantrell were married. The early part of their married life was spent on the farm of his grandfather Joseph Cantrell, near Vernon. Here they started and operated what was one of the first if not the first chicken hatchery in Woodson County. Later the Cantrell's opened and operated a chicken hatchery in Yates Center, in what is now the Woodson Co. Historical Museum.

Stanley Cantrell was accidently drowned in the Neosho River, in 1937. Mrs. Stephenson had also passed away in the meantime, so Clarissa made her home with her father, until his death in 1950.

Clarissa spent much time especially in later years in teaching music to children of Yates Center and surrounding vicinity. For many years she was the pianist and organist at the Methodist Church in Yates Center. She also taught a Sunday School class for approximately 25 years. Clarissa was a charter member of the Woodson Co. Historical Society and one of the first six Directors of the Historical Society. She was very helpful in the various activities of the Historical Society of which she seemed to enjoy.

LIZZIE J. STEPHENSON —

One of the popular pioneer school teachers of Woodson County was Miss Lizzie Stephenson. She was a native of Geaugo Co., Ohio and an older sister of Fred L. Stephenson.

She had taught one or two terms of school before coming to Woodson County in the spring of 1871. Here she was a pioneer teacher in the rural schools on the county. She also taught in the schools of Toronto, Neosho Falls and Yates Center. She was principal of the Yates Center schools for awhile. In 1882, she was serving out the unexpired term of J. L. Richardson, as Superintendent of Public Instruction for Woodson County. In the November election of 1882, Miss Stephenson was elected to serve a term in that office.

A familiar pose of Mrs. Clarissa C. Cantrell at the organ of the Methodist Church, that her many friends will remember.

ISAAC W. DOW —

A man who had much to do with the settling and building of Neosho Falls and the making and shaping of Woodson County in first days and years of it beginning was Isaac W. Dow.

Dow was born in New Brunswick on May 7, 1833. His parents were Oliver and Elizabeth Dow. When a small boy his parents moved to Washington Co., Maine. Isaac had a sister Mary E. Dow, who married John Inness, and came to Neosho Falls.

Isaac Dow was reared and educated in Maine, and here he learned the trade of a millwright from his father. In 1852 the Dow family moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, then to Waverly, Iowa. It was here that Isaac met Nathaniel S. Goss. Goss was the older of the two men, and had just recently suffered the loss of his beautiful wife. The two men decided to go to the new, raw country of Kansas. Sometime in the first of March, 1857, the men with an open buggy pulled by one horse, left Iowa. They arrived in Kansas on March 27th.

They were looking for a good place to build and operate a mill. On April 6, 1857, they came to the Neosho River to the west of LeRoy. They crossed the river at the wagon trail crossing, and then followed the river into Woodson County. Along here the men noticed the riffles in the river indicating that the water level of the river was falling fairly rapid. Coming to a place where a rock ledge went clear across the river.

Goss who was the financer of the project decided that this was the place for a mill. There were only three families in the surrounding vicinity. Just to the north of where the gate of the present Riverside Park is, was an Indian Camp. Isaac Dow stayed with the Indians in this camp while N.S. Goss went to St. Louis to get some of the machinery to build the mill. In time Goss and the machinery arrived by oxen and wagon.

Dow who was a practical millwright engineered the building of a rude log dam on top of the rock ledge. Dow also built the mill on the northeast or the far side of the river. The rude log houses were all built on that side of the river that first year. This mill was built during the summer of 1857.

Isaac Dow did considerable carpenter work as the town of Neosho Falls begin to be built on the west side of the river in 1858. In the county election on March 22, 1858, Dow was elected as chairman of the Board of Supervisors, (now called County Commissioners.) In August of that same year he helped to map out and name five townships of Woodson County, namely-Neosho Falls, Owl Creek, Belmont, Verdigris and Liberty.

The first census of Woodson County was taken in 1860, and the census taker was Isaac W. Dow. There were quite a few people counted with this census. Some of the more populated areas at that time were along the Neosho River, along lower Owl Creek, along Turkey and Duck Creeks, lower Dry Creek. The area along the Verdigris River. Perhaps the most populated township was Belmont, for it seemed that people would build a log cabin wherever they found good water and wood. The Belmont and Verdigris townships as well as Owl Creek, extended another two miles south of the present Woodson County line. This took in what is now the town of Buffalo and Middletown in present Wilson Co.

In the spring of 1861, after he had taken the Woodson County census, Isaac Dow went with a company of Commissioners appointed by the Governor of Kansas at that time, to locate school lands in Kansas. By the time that Dow returned that fall war had broken out between the North and the South.

By the time that Dow had his school land task finished a company of volunteers had been started at Neosho Falls, with B. F. Goss as their captain. The first military group any had started at Neosho Falls and was known as the Neosho Falls Union Rifles, and was organized April 29, 1861.

After about six months of irregular service, on October 26, 1861, Capt. Goss and 26 men were enlisted in Company F, Ninth Regiment Volunteer Cavalry. With Goss as captain, there were two sergeants and four corporals. On November 10, 1861, Isaac W. Dow enlisted as a First Lieutenant. He was 30 years of age. These men furnished their own horses and guns until January 16, 1862, when they were mustered into U.S. Service and designated as Co. F.

After serving and participating in various battles and skirmishes in Missouri, Arkansas and Indian Territory the company was discharged and mustered out January 16, 1865. Dow with the many members of the company came back to Neosho Falls.

Coming back to his home at the Falls, Dow soon took over the management of the Falls House, a popular hotel and eating place in Neosho Fall for many years. He managed the Falls House for around four years before starting on another venture. While still manager here Dow took part in getting a newspaper started in the Falls. A corporation was formed and the men purchased some newspaper equipment that was at LeRoy. However, the people at LeRoy would not permit the press to leave that town.

But one night under cover of the darkness, Dow and several other men from the Falls, with a team and wagon went to LeRoy, loaded up the press and brought it to Neosho Falls.

Some of the men in return were sued by the town of LeRoy. After a trial the press was left at Neosho Falls. In the meantime the press had been set up and the Frontier Democrat was started.

In September, 1870, the town of Neosho Falls was incorporated. Isaac W. Dow was elected as one of the first Trustees.

In 1871, Isaac Dow organized and operated the first bank in Neosho Falls and Woodson County. It was called the Neosho Falls Bank. However, it only lasted a couple of years as the financial crisis of 1873, caused the bank to close. Before the closing of the bank Dow with W. W. Sain went into the newspaper business.

On January 1, 1873, Sain and Dow put the first issue of the Woodson County Post at Neosho Falls. During this same month Dow went to Manchester, Ohio, where he married Mary Ann Conners, on January 18, 1873. Coming back to the Falls, Dow went into the lumber business, retiring from the newspaper business in September of that year.

After the death of his wife, Isaac Dow decided to leave Woodson County and went to Marceline, Mo., in 1889. After fourteen years he came back to the Falls and lived a life of semi-retirement until his death in September, 1913.

Isaac W. Dow was buried in the Neosho Falls Cemetery in the family plot with his wife. After a very busy and useful life in the interests of his town, county and country he is buried in an unmarked grave. He was 70 years old.

Isaac W. Dow

The only picture that we could find of Isaac W. Dow.

ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH —

What is now the oldest church in continuous service in Woodson County, is Zion United Methodist Church, in Yates Center. This church had its humble beginning in the log cabin home of Mr. and Mrs. August Lauber. This cabin was located in the southwest quarter of the Southeast quarter of section 1, Twp. 25, R. 14, on a hill overlooking the Owl Creek Valley, less than two miles to the northeast of present Yates Center.

It was in the year of 1857, that four young men just recently from Germany came to Woodson County. They were, Ernest Stockebrand, his brother William, a brother-in-law, August Toedman, and August Lauber who became their brother-in-law, about three years later. These four men and later their families seemed to form the nucleus for friends and relatives who would come here from the Old Country.

Mr.Lauber had built a rather commodious log cabin, and was married to Miss Louisa Stockebrand. It was to this log cabin of Mr. and Mrs. Lauber that the Rev. H. Haas, who was serving the Humboldt Mission, near the town of Humboldt came. There was no school house near so religious meeting was held in the Lauber cabin, with relatives and friends sharing in the meeting.

The book Fifty Years in The Kansas Conference gives this account of that meeting — "An extensive awakening took place, and many souls were converted, after which a class was organized with the following members: August Lauber and wife, Ernest Stockebrand and wife, Wm. Stockebrand and wife, Herman Fuhlage and wife, August Toedman and wife, Maria Stockebrand, Theresa Stockebrand, Ernest Kluckhuhn, Herman Toedman and C. F. Harder. Harder was chosen as class leader, and Ernest Stockebrand and E. Kluckhuhn as stewards."

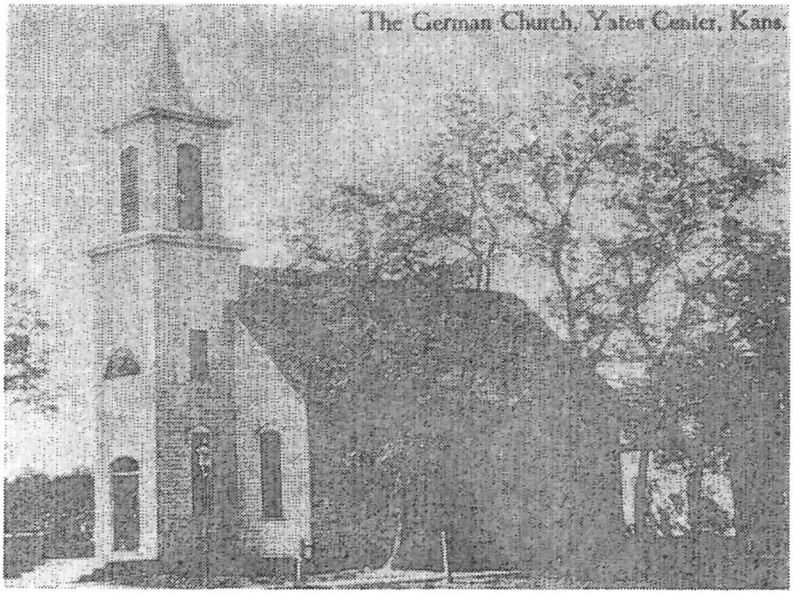
August Lauber was elected as Sunday School Superintendent, in which capacity he served 37 years in succession.

This appointment was originally called Owl Creek Class because of the creek, along which most of these people lived. Again quoting from the book mentioned above-"The name "New Jeruselum People" was given to the little band of converts by the non-Christian people, who were not favorably inclined toward them. These veterans of the cross and charter members of the Evangelical Association in Woodson County, were industrious and stalwart pioneers."

Church was held in various homes for a couple of years until the native stone school house, District No. 15, was built. This is what was later known as the Durand School.

In 1882 Conference ordered that all of the appointments west of Defiance should be taken from the Humboldt Circuit and formed into a new circuit, which should be called Yates Center Circuit. Turkey Creek and Cedar Creek Evangelican Churches were in this circuit.

During the year 1885, these Germans built their first church. It was a frame building and located at the southwest corner of Mary and Grove streets in Yates Center. This is location of the present United Methodist Church. This church was built at the cost of $2,050.00. This congregation used this church for their services for the next 30 years. The congregation had grown considerably and the need arose for a new and larger church.



The farewell service was held in the white frame church on Sunday, July 18, 1915. Rev. H. M. Scheurman, the pastor was in charge of the service. Most of the songs sang were in German. Talks were given by, William Fulhage, Herman Fulhage, Rev. C. F. Harder, Miss Emma Krueger, Henry Lauber, Sunday School Superintendent, Rev. Herman Toedman, Rev. Scheurman. A duet by Edna Stockebrand and Ruth Toedman accompanied by Minnie Stockebrand.

This church building was sold to the local Catholic congregation, who moved it to the corner of N. Main and Bell streets. The lots for the church building had been donated by Abner Yates, founder of Yates Center.

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Groundbreaking service for the new or present church was held on July 15, three days before the farewell service for the old church was held. Besides Rev. Scheurman, ministers of the other denominations of Yates Center took part in the ground-breaking. The Apostled Creed was led in German by Rev. Scheuram. This creed was led in English by Rev. Fowler, pastor First Methodist Church. Remarks were made by

Rev. Barrier, of the Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Kohl, pastor of the Christian Church. Each minister and church officer removed a shovelful of dirt.

The "new" large and beautiful brick church was built at a cost of $11,500. The church was to have been dedicated March 12, 1916, but had to be postponed because of weather conditions. The congregation began worshipping in the basement of the church about the first of the year.

The church was officially dedicated on the first Sunday of June 1916. Bishop G. Heinmiller was the dedicatory speaker.

Pastors of the Zion Church since its beginning are: H. Haas, H. Matill, John Emmel, B. Hoffman, D. R. Zellner, G. Marks, C. Emmel, C. Woehlte, E. J. Troyer, E. A. Brunner, H. Keopsel, H. Shuman, T. R. Nanninga, C. Brandt, Ferdinand Harder, P. Schuman, T. R. Nanninga, W. F. Wolthausen, A. Bruner, F. H. Draeger, B. Barthel, H. M. Scheurum, F. C. Dissinger, D. Swart, M. C. Platz, E. F. Boehringer, C. O. Bikel, R. R. Schreiber, David Bletscher, Max Wright, C. O. Burgert, Robert Vance, V. C. Buttermore, Richard Johnson, David Mack, Robert Peters, Gene Taylor is the present pastor.

During the pastorate of V. C. Buttermore, the Zion U.M.C. Church celebrated its 100th anniversary. Much of the material used in this story is taken from the book, Centennial 1868-1968. Zion United Methodist Church. This book was compiled by Elmer F. Krueger. During the lifetime of this church, it has been under three different names or denominations, Evangelical Association, The Evangical United Brethern and now the United Methodist.

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The Annual Session of the Kansas Conference of the Evangelical Association has been held at the Zion Church in Yates Center nine times. The 25th session in 1889, 33rd in 1897, 41st in 1905, 46th in 1910, 55th in 1919, 58th in 1922, 74th in 1938, 79th in 1943, 85th in 1949.

During the 74th Session in 1938 Yates Center was visited with a terrific hailstorm during an evening session.

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The combination of these two churches takes in two large congregations and makes it into a strong church, with a membership of over 625. However it is a far cry from the stern, steady old Germans who founded this first church. Along with the old church was the camp meetings that were held in the timber to the northeast of Yates Center. Turkey Creek and Cedar Creek churches also took part in these camp meetings when entire families met several days and nights at a time during the summer months.

Mr. and Mrs. August Lauber, Sr.

It was in the log cabin home of Mr. and Mrs. August Lauber that the Zion Church had its beginning in 1868, almost 107 years ago. Mr. Lauber was the first Sunday School Superintendent after the church was organized, and held that position for the next 37 consecutive years. He was succeeded by his son, August Lauber, Jr. who held the position for several years.

Other church school superintendents following in order were: Henry Krueger, Albert Weide, Henry Lauber (another son of August Lauber, Sr.), Thomas Brodman, Fred Baursfeld, Charles Opperman, Carl Miller, Otis Barnes, F. D. Tolle, Emil Beine, Elmer F. Krueger, Maynard Stockebrand, Marvin Chambers.

Over the 107 years there have been 36 ministers who have served Zion Church and 15 Sunday School Superintendents.

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Like many of the churches affected by the merger of the Evangelical United Brethern and Methodist Churches the Zion Church has operated and worshipped under three different church conferences. The first was the Kansas Conference of the Evangelical Association, next the union with the United Brethern, brought the Evangelical United Brethern and now the United Methodist.

THE MILTON HANNA FAMILY –

One of the pioneer families that homesteaded on the prairie of Liberty Township in Woodson County was the Hanna's. Milton Hanna was a native of White County, Illinois, while his wife Rebecca Scott, was born in Belmont County, Ohio. They were married September 25, 1856. They lived at Rock Island, Illinois for several years.

In the spring of 1871, Milton and Rebecca Hanna and four children came to Woodson County. The children were Clara, Fannie, Harriet T., and Wesley N. This same spring Mr. Hanna went the Land Office and filed on a claim of 80 acres in the east half of the S. W. quarter of section 6-Twp. 24, and Range 15.

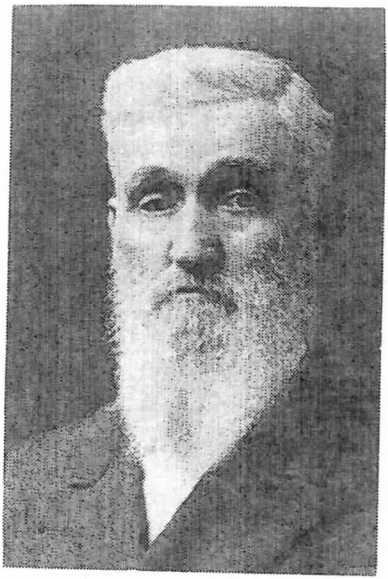
A frame cabin was built as the Hanna family started their homestead. However they had plenty of neighbors as section six for some reason was divided into eight different homesteads. Six of them were of 80 acres and two for 40 acres.

The Hanna's arrived here in time for the girls to start to school in the log school house of District No. 2, about two miles to the southwest of their home. This term started on May 8th, 1871. Just two of the girls went this term that ended in July. The teacher was E. V. Wharton. Fannie and Harriet went this term although the name Harriet was not used. She was listed as Netta. Clara did not start to school until the October term, with a different teacher. We mention this as about six years later, E. V. Wharton and Clara Hanna were married. We will tell more about these people later.

The name of Harriet or Netta as she was known at that time did not appear on the school record as of the summer term of 1872. For on September 25, 1872, Harriet passed away at the age of just under ten years. She was buried in the Goings Cemetery, about three miles to the northeast of the Hanna home. Now one hundred years later the stone with her name on it can be found although it is broken in several pieces. This one time popular cemetery has been over run with livestock for many years.

In November 1873, Clara Hanna attended her last day of school. She became one of the school teachers of Woodson County. In 1875 she taught the District No. 2 school. After teaching awhile Clara Hanna was married to E. V. Wharton.

In 1890, Mark Hanna sold his homestead to Wm. H. Peake, and the family moved to Yates Center. We will tell more about Clara under the story about E. V. Wharton. And more will be told about Fannie under the story of George McCartney. The Hanna's had two sons, Wesley N. and Wilbur, the only of the children to be born in Woodson County.



Pictures of Milton and Rebecca Hanna in their later years. They were described by the people who knew them as "gentle people".

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EUGENE VOLNEY WHARTON –

This man was known all of his life in Woodson County as Dr. Wharton. As he became one of the best known of the men practicing medicine in the county during his life time here. E. V. Wharton was a son of Joseph and Ellen Wharton, who were of old Kentucky stock. They moved to Bucanan County, Missouri where E. V. was born May 7, 1847.

E. V. Wharton's early education was received in the family school provided by his father for his children, later he went to school in Lawrence. that was in 1856. He also attended McGee College in Platt County, Missouri. In 1858, the Wharton family moved to Coffey County, Kansas, where they settled along Big Creek. This would be six miles south and about four west from Burlington. We were told years ago that the Wharton's were slave holders in Missouri, and brought some of the slaves with them to Coffey County.

After coming to Coffey County with his parents, E. V. taught two terms of school. One of these terms was at the Askren School District No. 2, in Woodson County. After his term ended in July, 1871, at Dist. No. 2, E. V. Wharton went back east where he entered the Cincinnati Electric Medical College at Cincinnati, Ohio, where he attended for two years, and then supplemented his medical training with lectures at the American National Medical Institute at St. Louis.

The first actual medical practice for Dr. Wharton was at Greenwood City, in Greenwood County. This is now a "lost" town, but at that time was located along the south side of the Verdigris River, a mile west and a mile north of where US 54 crosses the Woodson-Greenwood county line. Here he entered into a partnership with a Dr. J. W. Walters. In a few months this partnership was dissolved and Dr. Wharton went to Caney, Kansas, where he practiced his profession with the early "border men" of Kansas.

Hearing that a new county seat called the Centre had been chosen for Woodson County, in October, 1875, Dr. Wharton made his way here and believed that this county seat would be the place for a doctor. On August 20, 1876, Dr. E. V. Wharton was, as he later wrote, "the first medical man to fan the breezes with his shingle." Being the first doctor in Yates Center stayed there until his death in November, 1906.

Dr. Eugene Volney and Clara A. Wharton

Eugene V. Wharton and Miss Clara A. Hanna were married on September 23, 1877. They were the parents of five children. Wilbur, Fae, Joe, Clara and Harriet Edna.

Clara A. Wharton was born in Bucannon Co. Missouri, and came to Woodson County when she was about 14 years old. We mentioned her attending and also teaching at the Dist. No. 2 school. She taught in several different terms of Woodson County schools. After her marriage and moving to Yates Center, Clara Hanna Wharton entered into the civic life of the small village of Yates Center.

After the organization of the Public Library of Yates Center, Mrs. Wharton was the librarian for several years. She was the first librarian in the present library after it was built in 1912.

While a practicing physician, Dr. E. V. Wharton was also quite a politician. He was a Democrat, but changed over to the Populist Party in the 1890's. He was elected as State Representative in 1882. He also made a race for State Senator, but was defeated by a close vote.

Dr. Wharton died on November 27, 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Hanna were living nearby and were notified of the death of their son-in-law, and immediately went to the Wharton home. As they reached the gate Mrs. Hanna took ill and collapsed. She was taken into the Wharton home where she passed away. A double funeral was held for Mrs. Hanna and Dr. Wharton, at the Christian Church, conducted by Rev. DeLou Burcke and the Masons.

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THE GEORGE S. McCARTNEY FAMILY —

During the 1880 and 1890's, the name of George S. McCartney was well known, especially around Yates Center and the western part of the county, as a farmer, school teacher and newspaper publisher.

George Sharp McCartney was born in Belmont County, Ohio, in April, 1841. Here he grew up and attended schools of that area, attending Franklin College in New Athens, Ohio. It is told that he was nicknamed "Curn", because he supposedly ran away from his home in Ohio and joined the Confederate Army during the Civil War and earned the rank of Colonel. After his discharge from the army at the close of the Civil War, McCartney started on an adventurous trip to South America, going by way of a mule boat. On the trip to South America he contacted the yellow fever. He was cared for in a Catholic hospital there and was nursed and doctored so he was well enough to return to the States. He spent about a year and half on the mule train and in South America. While there he picked up several diamonds. He made his future wife's engagement ring from one of these.

When he returned to Ohio, his family made a move to Jacksonville, Illinois. George S. was one of seven children. His father James McCartney made a large sum of money as a bridge builder. One brother Joseph F. McCartney was a major in the Civil War and lived and died at Garnett. He and George S. managed a lumber yard at Virgil, Kansas at one time. (Around 1891-93).

In 1872, Martha McCartney, mother of George S. purchased from the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway, section 17, Twp. 24, R. 14. The upper part of Turkey Creek ran from the north across the section to the south side and then across most of the mile to the east. It was to this raw section of prairie land that George S. McCartney came to in about 1873. A frame house was built just about in the center of the section. A hedge fence was set out that enclosed about ten acres. Other buildings were built and possibly 50 or 60 acres of native sod was broken out. Joining on the south of the McCartney section was the McCord Sheep Ranch. From the northwest corner of the McCartney place, a mile north was the corner of the Van Horn Ranch.

On July 4, 1878, George S. McCartney was married to Fannie Eugene Hanna, at Toronto, Kans. Fannie was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Hanna, as told in the story of the Hanna's. She also taught in the Woodson County School. They were the parents of four sons and one daughter. They were, James Curtis, who died at age five months-James Harold, Francis Joseph, who died at about eight months old. The names of Curtis and "Frankie" are on the stones of their graves at the Askren Cemetery; Eric Milton and Clara Priscilla. After the death of these two sons, the latter in 8-14-1883, the McCartneys left the farm and moved to Yates Center.

Here both of the McCartney's taught school. Sometime in the summer of 1884, their brother-in-law, started a newspaper, The Woodson Democrat. There were two other newspapers in Yates Center at that time. One was a Republican paper. The other somewhat leaned that way, so Dr. E. V. Wharton thought that there should be a Democrat paper. Sometime later George S. McCartney took over as Editor and Publisher of the Woodson County Democrat. Whether McCartney edited it till the paper was discontinued in 1894, we do not know.

In 1883, McCartney sold the south half of his section of land. The southwest quarter section was sold to W. J. Mitchell. The southeast quarter was sold to John W. Pace. It was on this latter quarter section that the Keck school house stood for so many years.

In 1888, Levi Robbins obtained possession of 160 acres, running a mile long across the north part of the section. The other 160 acres also running a mile long and taking in where the house stood still belongs to heirs of George S. and Fannie E. McCartney. It leases in as a part of the Kimbell Ranch. The 160 acres is owned jointly by a grandson E. Don Hanson and a great grandson Jay McCartney Hanson. E. Don Hanson and his wife Irene who live at Albany, Illinois, were here on a business trip in 1972, and were visitors at our house.

Leaving Woodson County, sometime in the 1890's the McCartneys moved around considerable, living in Virgil, Fall River, and Waverly, Kansas, before moving to Rock Island, Illinois, where they operated a daily newspaper, and then to Albany, Illinois, where they published another newspaper, The Albany Review.

George S. McCartney and wife, Fannie E. Hanna McCartney

Mr. and Mrs. McCartney outlived their four sons. We mentioned the two small children being buried in the Askren Cemetery. Eric M. was killed when he stepped in front of a moving train at Urbana, Illinois, in 1910. James Harold died in 1916.

The daughter Clara Priscilla was married to E. L. Hanson. They had one son, E. Don Hanson.

E. Don Hanson married Irene Hanson. They have one son Jay McCartney, who goes by the name of Tom. It is to these latter three people that we owe much of this information.

* * * * * *

In 1972, Mr. and Mrs. Don Hanson were visitors at our house and at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Jackson. Mr. Jackson had told them much about the Hanna, Wharton and McCartney families that they were seeking information on.

A Sunday School group at the Rose Church about 1909

Starting with the two boys at the left of the picture on the top row: Roy Bideau, Jesse Simpson, Lucy Webster, Kathryn Bideau, Bertha Simpson, ----- -----, Hazel Wintgen, and Mrs. Farmer. The man on the end is Vesta Montonya, woman to his left holding a baby is Mrs. Leight Cox, holding Gwen Cox, Mr. Mullins holding baby, Mrs. Mullins, Leight Cox, and Harry Webster. Woman in front of these last named men, Mrs. Hearn, a Hearn boy, Mrs. Peters, Ruth Orbin, being held by her mother Mrs. Nora Orbin, Fannie Orbin, Mrs. Jennie Bideau, Isa Darst, Lucille Graham, Mrs. Simpson, Anna Kiser, Mrs. Vesta Montonya. The next row the first two girls are not identified, boy with white shirt and coat is a Hearn boy, Ethel Dumond, Doris Peters, Louise Bryant, Georgia Bell Bryant, Wallace Bryant, ----- Mullins, Charlotte Porter, Russell Webster, Esther Dumond. Front row: Raymond Bryant, Clark Dumond, Mabel Dumond, ----- -----, ----- -----, Blanch Porter, Orville Bryant, Helen Farmer, little boy in front of her is Tom Cox, Doris Dumond, Austin Dumond, Cleo Darst, Ruth Webster, and ----- -----.

THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN —

Of the many "folktales" that has been handed down in Woodson County, the Headless Horseman tale that was handed down for many years in northwestern part of the county was almost a legend. It had quite a few different versions to it.

Some told that he rode a large black horse, others said that he rode a white horse and again he was seen in a buggy. The place he would be seen was from the northwest corner of the county to several miles down the Dry Creek Valley.

One tale fixed the starting of this story in the north west part of the county where the old Burlington-Eureka wagon trail cut across the corner of this county. Coming from Burlington this trail followed a ridge in section 26, Twp. 23, R. 13, before going into Greenwood county, and into the Verdigris Valley.

It seems that travelers following this wagon trail would sometimes camp for the night along this ridge. Just when, who or what we never learned, but a man riding a large white horse camped along there with some other travelers one evening. Probably in a card or gambling game an argument started and then a fight. And in the fight the other fellow seemed to be a knife artist, and ended up with the rider of the white horse having his head severed. The man was buried there along the trail on the prairie, with a large rock covering the grave. As the tale went his spirit returned without the head and resumed the riding of the large white horse.

In later years a group of travelers who were camped near this site broke camp in the middle of the night and traveled on because of the appearance of the Headless Horseman.

A man by the name of Smith, who was a blacksmith in the town of Virgil a few miles to the west, and had been visiting friends somewhere in the vicinity several miles to the east of Virgil, and was returning home. He had imbibed too freely of a certain kind of spirits and saw what he thought was the Headless Horseman riding a large white horse. He whipped his horse hard the rest of the way to Virgil and escaped the horseman. The "apparition" that he had seen turned out to be Samuel Cope, after whom the Cope vicinity was named. Mr. Cope, driving a team of gray horses to a buggy, had been visiting at the Maclaskey Ranch and was returning to his home when the Virgil blacksmith had seen him.

A fellow by the name of Charley McGinness lived in a small shack with a lean-to on one side where he kept his horses, on the prairie

about two miles south of the present Kimbell Ranch. Whenever a group got together around the little town of Keck and the Headless Horseman would be mentioned McGinness would tell this story. He was out somewhere in the 'bad lands' at the head of Dry Creek and he seemed to be afoot as he was looking for some strays. He heard a noise back of him and turning around he saw the Headless Horseman on a large black horse. McGinness turned and started to run with the black horse not far behind him. He ran as he had never ran before, he ran and ran until he could go no farther. He finally collapsed on a rock and sat there with his head in his hands as he was completely exhausted. The Headless Horseman rode up and put his hand on Charley's shoulder and with a coarse gutteral voice said, "Boy we sure did go some for a while didn't we?!

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LONELY GRAVES —

Near a small drain almost in the center of section 15, Twp. 26, R. 17, in Perry township, Woodson County, are two lonely, unmarked and unknown graves of a couple of men accused and killed for stealing horses. At one time there were two mounds that were noticeable, but now have sunken to almost undistinguishable.

This story goes back to the early settlement of this county. When the vigilente law was almost or more forceful than the elected law officers.

A group of these vigilentes or as they were called the 'Regulators', lived along Owl and Cherry creeks. Some how they received word that three men had stolen some horses from over in Missouri and were evidently headed for the Indian Territory, now Oklahoma, and thought that they would follow a trail that crossed the southeast corner of Woodson County.

The group of regulators intercepted the horse thieves with the horses about a half mile inside the county line. However there were only two men with the horses. The leader of the group was not with the horses. Whether these men put up any kind of a fight we never learned, but evidently the vigilentes found out where the leader had gone before the two men caught were killed and buried there on the prairie.

The leader was evidently fairly well known as he was also known as a "minister of the Gospel", and did some preaching in a small church or school house in Allen Co.

This leader had gone on ahead to find a place to coral the horses for the night. While a part of the vigilentes attended to the burial detail, the rest headed to southwest to a crossing on the Verdigris River near

the small town of Guiliford, in Wilson County. The preacher had evidently found a campsite and was coming back to see what was the delay of the others coming. He was coming up the river bank at the crossing when he met the group of vigilentes. A short gun fight was the result and the preacher was shot and killed. Just where he was buried, we never learned.

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A FLAG RAISING –

Two flags, the United States Flag and the Kansas Flag, flew on the new flag pole at the Woodson County Museum Tuesday, September 3, 1974, following presentations at the Yates Center Rotary Club meeting.

Club president, Wes Buller presented a certificate to Lester A. Harding, president of the Historical Society, during the club meeting. The certificate read:

Washington D.C.
October 25, 1973
Honorable Joe Skubitz
House of Representatives
Washington D.C.
My Dear Congressman Skubitz

This is to certify that the accompanying flag was flown over the United States Capitol on October 24, 1973. I understand this flag will be presented to the Yates Center Rotary Club and Woodson County Historical Museum.

Sincerely yours,
George M. White, FAIA
Architect of the Capitol

This flag along with the Kansas Flag, presented earlier by Clyde Hill, were presented to Elmer F. Krueger, treasurer of the Historical Society and a member of the Rotary Club. The two flags were then placed on the flag pole, also a gift of the Rotary Club, at the Museum and a brief ceremony was held by Rotary members prior to a visit of the facility.

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IN MEMORIAN

Wesley P. Toedman 101 November 6, 1974

While Mr. Toedman was not a member of the Woodson County Historical Society, his name has been mentioned several times in this publication. He was born near the site of Yates Center before it became a town and spent most of his life in this vicinity.

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John V. Glades Agency
Woodson Co. Co-op
State Exchange Bank
Street Abstract Co., Inc.
Schornick Oil Co.
Self Service Grocery
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Mr. & Mrs. Robert Beine
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Linde Barber Shop
House of Fabrics
Brown's Western Auto
Donald E. Ward
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